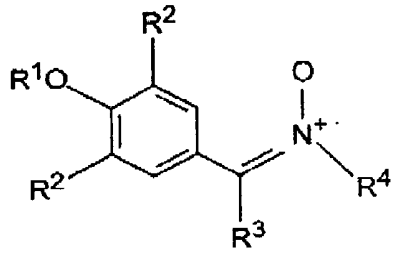
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

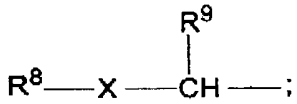
Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for treating neuropathic pain in a patient comprising administering an effective neuropathic pain-treating dose of a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula I:



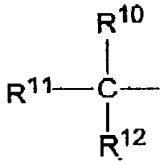
I

wherein

R^1 is



each R^2 is independently selected from a group of the formula:



R^3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl and aryl;

R^4 is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkenyl, substituted alkenyl, alkynyl, substituted alkynyl, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl and substituted cycloalkenyl;

R^8 is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkenyl, substituted alkenyl, alkynyl, substituted alkynyl, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl and substituted cycloalkenyl;

R^9 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkenyl, substituted alkenyl, alkynyl, substituted alkynyl, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl and substituted cycloalkenyl; or R^8 and R^9 can be joined to form an alkylene or substituted alkylene group having from 2 to 10 carbon atoms;

R^{10} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl and lower cycloalkyl; or R^1 and R^{10} can be joined to form an alkylene, substituted alkylene, -C(O)- -S(O)- or $-S(O)_2-$ group;

R^{11} and R^{12} are independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl and lower cycloalkyl; or R^{11} and R^{12} can be joined to form an alkylene group having from 2 to 10 carbon atoms; and

X is oxygen, sulfur, $-S(O)-$ or $-S(O)_2-$, ~~and~~

~~W is oxygen or sulfur;~~ or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 1 wherein ~~W~~ X is oxygen.

Claim 3 (Original): The method of Claim 2 wherein R^3 is hydrogen or lower alkyl.

Claim 4 (Original): The method of Claim 3 wherein R^3 is hydrogen.

Claim 5 (Original): The method of Claim 4 wherein R^4 is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl and cycloalkyl.

Claim 6 (Original): The method of Claim 5 wherein R^4 is selected from the group consisting of methyl, *n*-propyl, isopropyl, 1-hydroxy-2-methylprop-2-yl, *n*-butyl, *tert*-butyl, 3-thiomethylpropyl, 3-(thiomethoxy)but-1-yl, cyclohexyl, 4-trifluoromethybenzyl and 3,4,5-trimethoxybenzyl.

Claims 7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Original): The method of Claim 4 wherein X is oxygen; R^9 is hydrogen; and R^8 is alkyl or alkoxyalkyl.

Claim 12 (Original): The method of Claim 11 wherein R^8 is selected from the group consisting of methyl and methoxyethyl.

Claim 13 (Original): The method of Claim 4 wherein R^{10}, R^{11} and R^{12} are methyl.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 13 wherein R^{10}, R^{11} and R^{12} are methyl.

Claims 15 (Canceled).

Claim 16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Canceled).

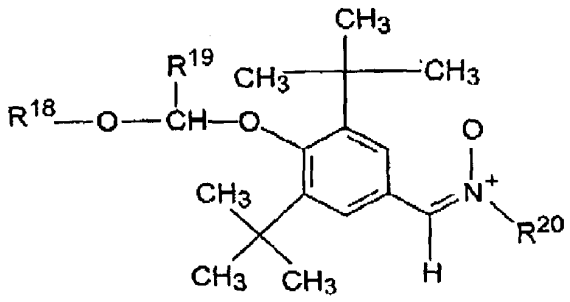
Claim 19 (Canceled).

Claim 20 (Canceled).

Claim 21 (Canceled).

Claim 22 (Canceled).

Claim 23 (Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the compound is of formula IV:



IV

wherein

R^{18} is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl and substituted cycloalkyl;

R^{19} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl and substituted cycloalkyl; or R^{18} and R^{19} can be joined to form an alkylene or substituted alkylene group having from 2 to 10 carbon atoms;

R^{20} is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl and substituted cycloalkyl; or pharmaceutically-acceptable salts thereof.

Claim 24 (Original): The method of Claim 23 wherein R^{19} is hydrogen and R^{18} is alkyl or alkoxyalkyl.

Claim 25 (Original): The method of Claim 24 wherein R^{18} is methyl or methoxyethyl.

Claim 26 (Original): The method of Claim 23 wherein R^{20} is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl and cycloalkyl.

Claim 27 (Original): The method of Claim 26 wherein R^{20} is selected from the group consisting of methyl, *n*-propyl, isopropyl, 1-hydroxy-2-methylprop-2-yl, *n*-butyl, *tert*-butyl, 3-thiomethylpropyl, 3-(thiomethoxy)but-1-yl, cyclohexyl, 4-trifluoromethybenzyl and 3,4,5-trimethoxybenzyl.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 1 wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:

~~α-(4-isobutanoyloxy-3,5-di-*tert*-butylphenyl)-*N*-*tert*-butylnitrone~~

~~α-(4-*n*-butanoyloxy-3,5-di-*tert*-butylphenyl)-*N*-*tert*-butylnitrone~~

~~α-(4-*n*-pentanoyloxy-3,5-di-*tert*-butylphenyl)-*N*-*tert*-butylnitrone~~

~~α-(4-propionyloxy-3,5-di-*tert*-butylphenyl)-*N*-*tert*-butylnitrone~~

~~α-(4-acetoxy-3,5-di-*tert*-butylphenyl)-*N*-3,4,5-trimethoxybenzylnitrone~~

~~α-[4-(ethylaminocarbonyloxy)-3,5-di-*tert*-butylphenyl]-*N*-*tert*-butylnitrone~~

~~α-[4-(*n*-propylaminocarbonyloxy)-3,5-di-*tert*-butylphenyl]-*N*-*tert*-butylnitrone~~

~~α-[4-(*n*-butylaminocarbonyloxy)-3,5-di-*tert*-butylphenyl]-*N*-*tert*-butylnitrone~~

~~α-[4-(2-ethoxycarbonyl)ethylaminocarbonyloxy)-3,5-di-*tert*-butylphenyl]-*N*-*tert*-butylnitrone~~

~~α-[4-(2-ethoxycarbonyl)methylaminocarbonyloxy)-3,5-di-*tert*-butylphenyl]-*N*-*tert*-butylnitrone~~

α-(4-methoxymethoxy-3,5-di-*tert*-butylphenyl)-*N*-*tert*-butylnitrone

α-[4-(2-methoxy)ethoxymethoxy-3,5-di-*tert*-butylphenyl]-*N*-*tert*-butylnitrone

α-(4-methoxymethoxy-3,5-di-*tert*-butylphenyl)-*N*-3-(thiomethoxy)but-1-ylnitrone

α-(4-methoxymethoxy-3,5-di-*tert*-butylphenyl)-*N*-3-thiomethoxypropylnitrone

~~α-(4-hydroxy-3,5-di-*tert*-butylphenyl)-*N*-*tert*-butylnitrone~~

~~α-(4-hydroxy-3,5-di-*tert*-butylphenyl)-*N*-*tert*-octylnitrone~~

~~α-(4-hydroxy-3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-N-tert-butylnitrone~~

~~α-(4-hydroxy-3,5-dimethylphenyl)-N-hexylnitrone~~

~~α-(4-hydroxy-3,5-dimethylphenyl)-N-tert-butylnitrone~~

~~α-(4-hydroxy-3,5-di-tert-butylphenyl)-N-(1,1-dimethyl-2-hydroxyethyl)nitrone~~

~~α-(4-hydroxy-3,5-di-tert-butylphenyl)-N-(1,1-dimethylpropyl)nitrone~~

~~α-(4-hydroxy-3,5-di-tert-butylphenyl)-N-(1-methylethyl)nitrone~~

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

Claim 29 (Canceled).

Claim 30 (Canceled).

Claim 31 (Canceled).

Claim 32 (Canceled).

Claim 33 (Canceled).

Claim 34 (Canceled).

Claim 35 (Canceled).